1. (Amended) Granules containing at least one plant substance, comprising a neutral core having a particle size of between 200 and 1600 μm coated with a layer containing the plant substance combined with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

2. (Amended) Granules according to claim 1, wherein the neutral core consists of a substance selected from the group consisting of sugar, starch, mannitol, sorbitol, xylitol, cellulose, talc, and mixtures thereof.

3. (Twice amended) Granules according to claim 1, wherein the neutral core consists of a starch/sucrose core in a 20/80 mass ratio, which is coated with 80% by weight of starch.

4. (Twice amended) Granules according to claim 1, wherein the layer containing the plant substance contains a binder.

5. (Twice amended) Granules according to claim 1, wherein the layer containing the plant substance is coated with an outer layer capable of masking the taste or odor of the plant substance.

6. (Amended) Granules according to claim 5, wherein the outer layer is capable of controlling the release of the plant substance and contains lac gum, PVP, a copolymer of methacrylic acid or a colloidal dispersion of ethylcellulose with a plasticizer.

7. (Amended) Granules according to claim 5, wherein the outer layer is capable of delaying the release of the plant substance and contains a copolymer of methacrylic acid, lac gum or a colloidal dispersion of ethylcellulose with a plasticizer.

8. (Amended) Granules according to claim 5, wherein the outer layer is capable of masking the taste or odor of the plant substance and contains a copolymer of methacrylic acid or hydroxypropylmethylcellulose.

9. (Twice amended) Granules according to claim 1, wherein the plant substance is selected from the group consisting of garlic, Echinacea, Ginko biloba, ginseng, Harpagpphytum, kava, St,-John's-wort, green tea, valerian, Missouri grape, artichoke, hawthorn, burdock, birch, alder buckthorn, blackcurrant, blessed thistle, Fucus, Hamamelis, horse chestnut, balm, Orthosiphon, passion flower, dandelion, horsetail, meadowsweet, sage, spirulina and mixtures thereof.

10. (Twice amended) Granules according to claim 1, wherein the content of plant substance is between 0.1 mg/g and 750 mg/g weight of plant substance to the total weight of the granule.

11. (Twice amended) A method of preparing granules comprising coating a neutral core having a particle size of between 200 and 1600 μm with a layer containing a plant substance combined with a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient, wherein the plant substance coated onto the neutral cores is in the form of a dry, soft or fluid extract.

12. (Amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein the granules are obtained by powder-coating when the plant substance is in the form of a dry extract.

13. (Amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein the granules are obtained by coating in solution when the plant substance is in the form of a soft or fluid extract.

14. (Amended) The method according to claim 13, wherein the fluid extract contains from 30 to 40% v/v alcohol.

15. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein 5 to 25% by weight of organic solvents are used.

16. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein the size of the neutral core is between 950 and 1400 μm, and wherein the plant extract is dry.

17. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein the size of the neutral core is between 900 and 1250 μm, and wherein the plant extract is soft or fluid.

18. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein the percentage by mass of fluid extract used is between 15 and 25% relative to the weight of the granules.

19. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein the percentage by mass of dry extract is as high as 75% relative to the weight of the granules.

20. (Twice amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein the granules are prepared in a pan or in a fluidized air bed.

21. (New) Granules according to claim 4, wherein the binder is selected from the group consisting of sucrose, polyvinylpyrrolidone, lac gum and hydroxypropylmethylcellulose.

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. New claim 21 is added. All the amendments clarify that which applicants regard as their invention. All the amendments are supported by the specification as originally filed. For example, support for the amendment of claim 5 may be found at page 2, lines 13-17, of the specification. Claims 1-21 thus are presented for reconsideration.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph:

(I) Claims 1-20 are rejected under Section 112, second paragraph, as unclear, because of the term "characterized in that." The claims have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to use terminology standard in practice before the USPTO, and they now are believed to comport with the requirements of Section 112, second paragraph.